

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00838 031805Z

67

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /088 W

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R 031640Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4217

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 917

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0838

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: REPORTS OF SECRET TALKS

1. CAPE NEWSPAPERS AND SOUTH AFRICAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION
CARRIED UNCONFIRMED STORIES DECEMBER 3 THAT JOSHUA NKOMO
AND NDABANINGI SITHOLE WERE TEMPORARILY RELEASED FROM
RHODESIAN DETENTION

IN NOVEMBER FOR TALKS IN LUSAKA. NKOMO
AND SITHOLE ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE MET WITH PRESIDENTS KAUNDA,
NYERERE, AND SIR SERETSE KHAMA, AND FRELIMO LEADER SAMORA
MACHEL. BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA, HEAD OF AFRICAN NATIONAL
COUNCIL (ANC), ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT TALKS.

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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00838 031805Z

2. ARGUS AFRICA NEWS SERVICE SAYS "SOURCES WITHIN ANC" IN SALISBURY "HOTLY" DENIED MUZOREWA HAD LEFT RHODESIA AND THEY DOUBTED DETAINED LEADERS HAD BEEN RELEASED. ANOTHER SOURCE CLAIMS MUZOREWA WAS FLOWN TO LUSAKA AT NIGHT AND RETURNED BEFORE NEXT MORNING. BISHOP MUZOREWJ REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO COMMENT WHEN ASKED TO CONFIRM OR DENY ATTENDING TALKS IN LUSAKA WITH SITHOLE AND NKOMO.

3. LATER ARGUS SERVICE REPORT FROM SALISBURY SAYS "RELIABLE SOURCES" CLAIM JOINT TALKS NOW TAKING PLACE IN MALAWI BETWEEN THREE ANC OFFICIALS, LED BY ANC SECGEN GORDON CHAVANDUKA, AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT BANDA IS REPORTED TO BE ACTING AS GO-BETWEEN IN POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT MOVES.

4. RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED NO STATEMENT ON ANY OF REPORTS. AFTER REQUESTS FROM JOURNALISTS FOR CONFIRMATION OR DENIAL, RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICERS WERE REPORTED TO BE IN CONFERENCE ALL MORNING IN PRIME MINISTER SMITH'S OFFICE. RHODESIAN CABINET IS ALSO MEETING AND STATEMENT IS EXPECTED LATER IN DAY.

HURD

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